FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
5-95	ORLEANS		EAS.106

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
North Eastham/Nauset

Address: 2455 Nauset Road

Historic Name: Timothy & Lydia Mayo House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1798-1800

Source: vital records, censuses, historic maps

Style/Form: Federal/Cape Cod

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
Wings added, 19th & 20th c.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

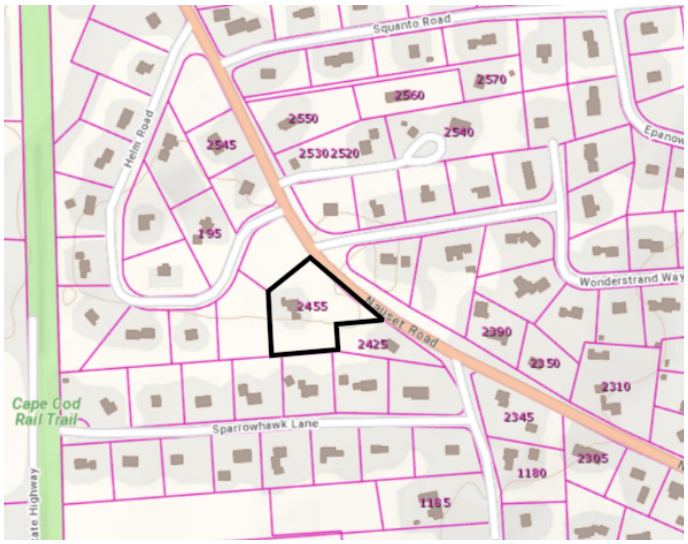
Acreage: 1.238

Setting: The property is situated on a historic road in the midst of a mid-20th-century residential subdivision platted on the farmland once associated with it.

Photograph

View from NE.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Timothy & Lydia Mayo House, built ca. 1800, is a one-story wood frame single dwelling with a three-quarters Cape Cod plan and wings on the side and rear. The 1995 MHC Building Form for the property cite the current owners' opinion that it comprises two buildings joined together: a "quarter house" built about 1720 and a three-quarters cape built 10 or 20 years later. This assertion was not corroborated by a detailed examination of the house. The three-quarters cape section has a four-bay front façade with an entrance offset on one side and a chimney offset on the other. The entrance is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a transom, the top of which is tight against the shallow cornice along the eave. Windows carry cornices spaced below the frieze in an unconventional manner suggesting they have been altered. Batten shutters, window boxes and sconces are recent cottage features. The north gabel end contains three windows on the first story, one added in the rear, and two attic windows in the gable. A one-story wing engaged to the south end of the house appears to be a historic kitchen although it has been altered by a shed-roof addition on the front. The opposite (west) side of the wing contains a doorway and windows, one an added oriel. A story-and-a-half cross-gable wing was added to the west side of the main block and is distinguished by a Gothic window in the gable. It also has a small one-story wing containing only a doorway on tis west side and a chimney on the north end.

The house is situated in the center of an open one-plus-acre lot in the midst of a residential subdivision created from farm land once associated with it.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The land on which 2455 Nauset Road was built may have been part of the land owned by James Mayo (1745-1828) and his wife Martha Doane or by Martha Doane's father Samuel Doane (1722-95) and his wife Dorcas Cole, who married in 1744. Early Eastham censuses suggest that Timothy Mayo (1777-1863) was living in a house on this site by 1800, two years after his marriage to Betty Lumbard. The house might have been built on land that came to Timothy's father James Mayo (1745-1828) from the estate of his father-in-law Samuel Doane (1722-95), on land Doane sold James Mayo in 1795, or on Mayo family land.[1] The 1798 federal direct tax lists James Mayo with three buildings in Eastham; if the 2455 Nauset Road house predates 1798, it may have been one of the buildings James Mayo owned. Alternatively, it might have been the Samuel Doane homestead: his only son, Joel, died in 1781, and his daughter Mercy Myrick was living with her husband Isaac elsewhere in Eastham.

Timothy Mayo's first wife died in 1806, and two years later he married Lydia Doane (1781-1855), the daughter of Nehemiah and Lydia Dill Doane of North Eastham. Censuses list him after Elkanah Cole (2310 Nauset Road, EAS.104) from 1820 to 1850. He and his wife had six children—Thankful (1809-16), Alice (1813-51), Timothy (1814-82), Oliver (1817-1905), Asa (1820-44), and Irene (1823-88). By 1850, all but Irene Mayo had left their parents' household. Timothy Mayo was listed in that year's census as a farmer with $571 in real property. Lydia Doane Mayo died in 1855, and in 1860 the widowed Timothy Mayo was listed in a household in this neighborhood with daughter Irene; his name is attached to the house on this site on the 1858 Eastham map. In the household enumerated next was son Oliver, a mariner who had married Rebecca Knowles in 1847, and their two children George O. and Ella, born in 1853 and 1854 respectively.

Timothy Mayo died in August 1863, and his will, written slightly less than a month earlier, left all but small money and personal property bequests to his children Oliver and Irene in equal halves, each of them agreeing as a condition of the bequest to surrender any claim they might make on his estate, Irene for "keeping my house since the decease of her mother and also any services she may render to take care of me during my sickness or in any other form" and Oliver for any service up to the time of Timothy's death. In January 1864 Irene Mayo sold her brother her share of the property, and in November 1865 she married the widowed Eastham farmer Crowell Doane.[2] The 1865 state census lists mariner Oliver Mayo in this neighborhood with his wife,

[1] Alfred Alder Doane, comp., *The Doane Family: Deacon John Doane, of Plymouth. . .* (Boston: Alfred Alder Doane, 1902), 94, notes that James Mayo was appointed to settled his father-in-law Samuel Doane's estate in December 1795 and that the estate was divided between Doane's widow Dorcas Cole Done and the heirs of their three children—Joel, Martha Mayo (James Mayo's wife), and Mercy Myrick. The actual probate documents have not yet been located. See also Samuel Doane to James Mayo, 14 February 1795, BCD 999041:27.
[2] Irene Mayo to Oliver Mayo, 6 January 1864, BCD 84:244.

their two children, and Irene, not yet married when the census was compiled. Crowell Doane died in November 1866, and by 1870 Irene Mayo Doane had returned to her brother's household and was working as a housekeeper; by then Oliver Mayo was farming and is listed with $739 in real estate.

Rebecca Knowles Mayo died in 1873, and Oliver Mayo remained in the house with his two adult children. The 1880 census shows the three together there. Irene Mayo Doane was not part of the household in 1880, but she died in Eastham in 1888. By 1900 Oliver Mayo was living at 2455 Nauset Road with his daughter Ella. In March 1904 Oliver sold all of his Eastham real estate to Ella for $800, and he died in December 1905.[3] The 1905 Eastham map attaches the name "E. Mayo" to the house. She remained there for the most part until she died in 1938, though in both 1920 and 1930 censuses she was part of the Brockton household of her brother George, a shoe shop operative. George Mayo's second wife, Emma B. Handy Knowles, was the widow of Eastham native Thomas S. Knowles (1842-82). Their children—Wilmer H., Frank C., and George L. Knowles—became part of the George Mayo household after the two married in 1891. In her will Ella Mayo left her 2455 Nauset Road homestead to Wilmer and George Knowles.

The Knowles brothers sold the Eastham property in August 1944, and two years later Frank L. and Olive Macdonald of Quincy acquired it; they owned 2455 Nauset Road for the next quarter-century.[4] Frank Leon Macdonald was born in Brockton in 1888 and was a musician when he married Brockton native Olive M. Barret. By 1917 he was a musician in the orchestra at the Colonial Theater in Boston, and by 1915 he was also a violin teacher, work he did in Brockton at least through 1951. In 1971 Olive Macdonald sold 2455 Nauset Road to a realty company, which subdivided the property into eighteen lots and sold the house and its parcel five months later to Angelo F. and Michelina Addona of Waterbury, Connecticut. The Addonas placed the property in trust in 2003 and owned it until 2009, when they sold it to Thomas E. MacDonald and Elisabeth A. Ditomassi of Boston. They were the owners of record in 2020.[5]

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MAPS
Rogers, Josiah, Elijah Knowles, and Simeon Kingman. A Map of Eastham. 1795.
Hales, John G. *Plan of Eastham and Orleans*. 1831.
Walling, Henry F. *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Massachusetts Based upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State*. New York: D. R. Smith and Co.,1858.

[3] Oliver Mayo to Ella L. Mayo, 17 March 1904, BCD 265:489.
[4] George L. Knowles, West Dennis; and Wilmer H. and Mattie E. Knowles, Brockton, to Mary G. Flint, Barnstable, 7 August 1944, BCD 617:439; Mary G. Flint, Barnstable, to Frank L. and Olive E. Macdonald, Quincy, 26 July 1946, BCD 651:589.
[5] Olive MacDonald to Helm Realty Inc., 29 June 1971, BCD 1517:13; Helm Realty Inc., Orleans, to Angelo F. and Micheline Addona, Waterbury CT, 10 November 1971, BCD 1579:227; Angelo F. and Micheline Addona, 2455 Nauset Road, to Angelo F. and Michaeline Addone, trustees Angelo & Micheline Addona Family Trust, 9 October 2003, BCD 17780:99; Angelo F. and Micheline Addona, trustees Angelo & Micheline Addona Family Trust, to Thomas E. MacDonald and Elisabeth A. Ditomassi, Boston, 5 June 2009, BCD 23850:225. The house is shown on Lot 1 of "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass. as Made for Helm Realty, Inc.," June 1971, BCP 247:59.

Continuation sheet 2

Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray. Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.
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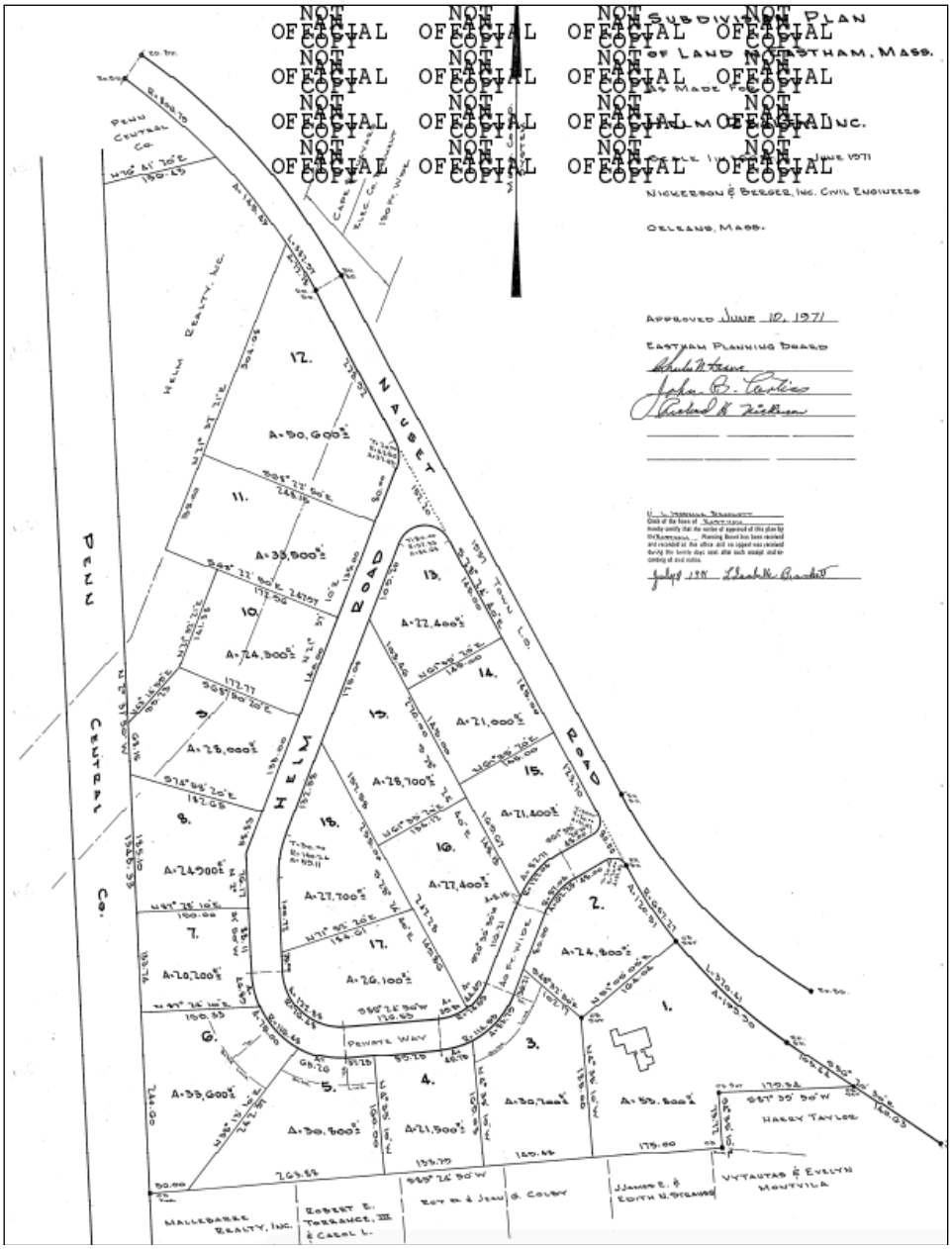
SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



The 2455 Nauset Road house is depicted at lower right on Lot 1 of the 1971 Helm Realty subdivision (BCD 247:59).

PHOTOGRAPHS
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from north.

View from west.